

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the Forms PTO/SB/08 A&B filed on November 19, 2004 and April 5, 2005, thus indicating that the references listed thereon have been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claim 36 has been objected to, this claim would be allowable if written in independent form. As shown in the previous section, Applicant has essentially written claim 36 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this claim is now allowable.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 33-42 are all of the claims pending in the present application, and currently claims 33-35 and 37-42 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection – Claims 33, 34, 37-38, 41 and 42:

Claims 33, 34, 37, 38, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese reference JP H3-49236 to Ikeda. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner has alleged that Figures 2 and 4, of the Ikeda reference, disclose each and every aspect of the claimed invention. Namely, the Examiner has alleged that the element 14 (Figure 4) corresponds to the first sheet feeder of the present

invention, while the element 10 (Figure 4) corresponds to the second sheet feeder of the claimed invention.

However, Applicant submits that Ikeda fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in the amended claims, as shown in the previous section. Specifically, as claimed, the present invention includes “a second sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to an upstream end portion of the first sheet feeder relative to the first direction, and operable to feed the second medium to the recording section in the first direction.” *See* claim 33, *see similarly* claims 40 and 41.

As shown in Ikeda, it is apparent that the “second sheet feeder” (element 10) is not adapted to be detachably attached to an upstream end portion of the “first sheet feeder” (element 14) relative to the first direction. As such, Ikeda fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Ikeda fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, in particular the claimed etching adjustment layer. Therefore, Ikeda fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the above claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Claim 35.¹

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ikeda reference, in view of JP 408133556 to Ono. However, because claim 35 (and claim 40) is a dependent claim, and because Ono fails to cure the deficient teachings of Ikeda, Applicant submits that claim 35 (and claim 40) is allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

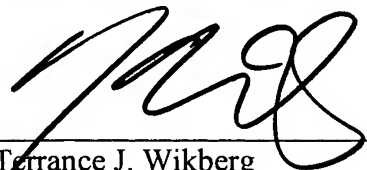
¹ Applicant notes that the Examiner has not provided a specific rejection of claim 40. However, because of the language of the rejection, appearing on page 4 of the Office Action, Applicant believes the Examiner intended this rejection to be directed to claim 40, and not the indicated claim 35. Applicant will proceed under this presumption.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 10/750,963

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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